

The Ways to Depict the Inner-Thoughts of Obeying Woman of the Story “Weekend” By Fay Weldon

Davletova Shalola

Teacher at Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Tashkent city, Uzbekistan

Abstract: Feminism has been becoming one of the most controversial topics for many years in the History of European Literature. Hence, a myriad of authors released their masterpieces depicting social issues of this contemporary epoch in terms of the way treating females by the members of the opposite gender. This article is partly about a woman who dedicated herself to her immediate family members forgetting about her self-values and self-esteem and mostly about the literary devices the author uses to boost the hues of her writing style.

Keywords: literature, proficiency, characters, mentality, main plot, feminism.

Introduction. *About the author.* Weldon was born Franklin Birkinshaw to a literary family in Birmingham, England, on 22 September 1931. Her maternal grandfather, Edgar Jepson (1863–1938), her uncle Selwyn Jepson and her mother Margaret Jepson wrote novels (the latter sometimes under the nom de plume Pearl Bellairs, from the name of a character in Aldous Huxley's short story "Farcical History of Richard Greenow"). Weldon grew up in Christchurch, New Zealand, where her father, Frank Thornton Birkinshaw, worked as a doctor. In 1936, when she was five, her parents agreed to separate, later divorcing (1940). She and her sister Jane spent the summers with her father, first in Coromandel, later in Auckland. She attended Christchurch Girl's High School for two years from 1944. Weldon has described herself as a "plump, cheerful child", stating in a blog post that began as an unpublished article for the Daily Mail: "I was born large, blonde and big-boned into a family of small beautiful women. My mother thought it was unlikely that anyone would marry me, and therefore I would have to pass exams, earn my own living and make my own way in the world. Or that's what I thought she thought." She goes on to explain how this view of herself affected her later writing career. "I'd be happier to have been seen as a skinny, feisty child, a slim and serious adult, and a handsome octogenarian with an interesting literary past. But that was not to be, despite a lifetime of diets. It was however a state of affairs which made me write good few novels with overweight, plain women as their heroines. I've always been on their side – they are the unseen majority."

In September 1946, when she was 15, Weldon returned to England with her mother and sister. She recalled: "I was a literary groupie from the antipodes...Not that I had any intention of being a writer at the time – too much like hard work. All I wanted was to get married and have babies." She did not see her father again before his death in 1949.

In England Weldon won a scholarship to the all-girls South Hampstead High School, before going on to study Psychology and Economics at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Later she recalled attending classes with the moral philosopher Malcolm Knox, who "spoke exclusively to the male students, maintaining that women were incapable of moral judgement or objectivity." She completed her Master of Arts in 1952 and moved to London, where she worked as a clerk at the Foreign Office for a salary of £6 a week.

Discussion. *Early career.* Weldon had temporary jobs as a waitress and hospital ward orderly before working as a clerk for the Foreign Office, where she wrote pamphlets to be dropped

in Eastern Europe as part of the Cold War. She had to leave this job after she became pregnant. Later she took a job with Crawford's Advertising Agency, where she worked with the writer Elizabeth Smart, and where she could earn enough to support herself and her young son (Nicolas).

As head of copywriting at Ogilvy, Benson and Mather, she was responsible for publicizing (but not originating) the phrase "Go to work on an egg". She coined the slogan "Vodka gets you drunker quicker," saying in a Guardian interview: "It just seemed ... to be obvious that people who wanted to get drunk fast needed to know this." Her bosses disagreed and suppressed it.

Writing career. Appearing with Gegard Casey on British television discussion programme After Dark in 1997

In 1963 Weldon began writing for radio and television. In 1967, her first novel, *The Fat Woman's Joke* was published. "When I submitted my first novel in 1966 it was accepted without demur. I thought this was because I was a wonderful writer, But it wasn't. It was because I had learned to have nothing turned down." She subsequently built a successful and prolific career, publishing over thirty novels, collections of short stories, films for television, newspaper and magazine articles and becoming a well-known face and voice on the . She described herself as a "writeaholic".

In 1971 Weldon wrote the first episode of the landmark television series *Upstairs, Downstairs*, for which she won a Writers Guild award for Best British TV Series Script. In 1980 Weldon wrote the screenplay for director/producer John Goldschmidt's television movie *Life for Christine*, which told the true story of a 15-year-old girl's life imprisonment. The film was shown in prime-time on the ITV Network by Granada Television. She also wrote the screenplay for the 1980 BBC miniseries adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Elizabeth Garvie and David Rintoul. In 1989, she contributed to the book for the Petula Clark West End musical *Someone Like you*.

Weldon's most outstanding work is her 1983 novel *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, which she wrote at the age of 52.

Her novel *The Hearts and Lives of Men* was written and published in serial form, appearing in the British magazine *Woman* between 1 February and 15 November 1986. She told *The New York Times*, "It was written as the Dickens novels were written....You made it up as you went along, confined by the structure of the story, which is going to go on for you don't know how long—but you have to be able to bring it to an end with three weeks' warning."

In 1993 her play *Mr Director* was produced at the Orange Tree Theatre in London. Its subject was the treatment of juveniles in a children's home.

In 2000, Weldon's novel *The Bulgari Connection* became notorious for its product placement, naming the jewellers not only in the title but another 34 times, while a minimum of 12 times was stipulated in the £18,000 contract.

The summary of the story. The short story leads us the scenery where a family is having a weekend trip in their cottage located in the outskirts of their city. Almost all of the events of the work happens in their cottage where the readers make themselves pretty aware of the characters' personality as well as inner thoughts. The main character Martha has a weak, vulnerable insight among her immediate family members. The leading idea here is outdated and modern outlooks of people as well as the responsibilities of people in a family relating to their gender among society.

Story begins the introduction of Martha who is a middle -aged woman of 38. Her spouse Martin, who has a strong influential behavior to his wife, wants to be dominant in his family making obey his wife to his orders. Although they have three children together, Martha has gain no word in their small society called family. However, the story is told through Martha's eyes. As the reader pages the story he feels sympathy for the condition of Martha as the writer expresses her

insight skillfully. She only thinks about his husband and follows his preferences even though these throw into challenge her so much as well as take a lot of time and effort. At the beginning one can imagine the event they are preparing for the weekend trip to the countryside having packed all the necessary things for their relaxation. This particular weekend is probably not much different from most other weekends, and this you can see in the title as well, because the title is indefinite and is called “Weekend” and not “The Weekend”. Martha tries to be a Super woman by trying to do her best to manage her duties in family and wanting to be an independent modern career lady. Ultimately, she has to give up the latter in favor of former by the influence of her loved one Martin as he has a strong despair for women who put their job outside first rather than caring for their family. This is illustrated as her intuitive wills are ignored by her soul mate and gives up everything regarding her duties before her children and husband. How an unfair situation is illustrated here simply as the example of one mediocre family member’s personality and personal traits. Martha’s husband Martin is in contrast is very tradition follower and considers every gender should do their own work: the man working to provide for the family, and the woman performing the domestic duties. It is certainly something that he doesn’t try to hide, and it is possible to notice the gender roles very clearly when they are preparing to go to the cottage: while Martha is rushing around the place getting everything and everybody ready, Martin, after coming home from work, is watching the TV upstairs, and only comes down when all is packed and ready: “Martin would just catch the BBC 2 news, while Martha cleared away the tea table” Martin seems to enjoy the thought of him, the man, being the head of the family, and as a result, sees Martha as a bit subordinate. This has left Martin as the dominant member in their relationship and Martha most of the time just performs her domestic duties without much complaining. Therefore, it is, because of the obvious lack of backbone in Martha’s personality, easy for Martin to take advantage of her, and this he most certainly does. He orders her around and she feels that she must do everything in her power to please him, even when it comes to her appearance. Whether it is done unconsciously or on purpose, he always somehow makes Martha feel ashamed, or feel like everything is her fault. This makes Martha very unsure about how to live her life: if she is strict and does her duties with a firm hand, she gets the message from Martin that she should lighten up, and if she is too casual, when problems arise, Martin comments that she should have done her duties better. Either way she cannot win. This is seen on the Sunday on page 319-320: Anyway, you do too much for the children” said Martin. “It isn’t good for them. Have a drink.” “Don’t drink too much” said Martin and told them of Martha’s suspended driving license.” It is apparent that Martha’s strained life is taking a toll on her mind and body, to the point was she is acting a bit crazy. On Saturday Martin’s best friend Colin arrives with his new girlfriend Katie. Katie is an independent, beautiful woman who, in contrast to Martha, neither has husband nor kids. Martha admires Katie and gets a bit dreamy each time she thinks of Katie’s lifestyle – which is a more modern lifestyle and is designed to have fun. Colin’s previous wife Janet had had much more in common with Martha, but had now been replaced by Katie because Colin had become increasingly rich and famous. The fact is that Katie is the exact opposite of Martha. This also applies to the way she handles Colin, because Katie is in control of her man, in contrast to Martha. A good example of this is when Katie discovers that Colin carries a picture of Janet and their kids in his wallet. Katie storms off, and Colin is forced to burn the picture in order to satisfy Katie. Martha is not happy with what she has become and she easily detects the way people look down on her, including Katie. She suspects that it is her mother and her childhood that is the reason why she has become this sad person in her own eyes and others. The story comes to an end when Jenny, their oldest, gets her first period. This should be a happy and joyful moment for Jenny, but Martha suddenly breaks down and can’t stop crying. In reality, Martha realizes that Jenny is becoming a woman and that it is possible that Jenny will face the same gender inequality that Martha experiences. The reason why Fay Weldon has written this short story is to portray gender inequality and especially male dominance within a relationship. This is seen when it is Jenny, a female, and not one of the boys that triggers Martha’s realization of the possibility that her own kids will fall foul to gender inequality. Fay Weldon also portrays a number of possibilities of the origins of Martha’s character, and to why

she is the way she is. On the one hand, as mentioned earlier, Martha is aware of the way she is, and is confirmed in it through the eyes of practically each person in the story. She blames her mother and a lonely childhood for what she has become, and this you could say is a probable cause. On the other hand, there are a lot of previously mentioned things that indicate that it is Martin's fault that Martha isn't enjoying life, as is Katie for example, but rather acts like a bewildered person. In the end I think that it is a mixture of the two that have helped make Martha into the person that is described in the short story. It is possibly because of her childhood that Martin has found it so easy to manipulate Martha's conscience and make her feel like everything is her fault.

Conclusion. The author of this story intends to illustrate the weak points of society concerning gender and their tasks before the family. Some years before the events of the story were common in many parts of the world (it is common even now in copious Asian Countries). The inner thoughts of women stay secret as they did not have a right to speak out, they were just passive stratum of their societal surrounding. The language of the story is very simple and comprehensible since the writer uses linguistic devices skillfully enough to be caught by any reader. Monologue is ubiquitous genre used by Martha by questioning herself every time she gets warnings from her husband. Suffice it to say, this short story can evoke a bunch of feelings not only in women but also men for being unfair to their soul mates. That's why I consider it is a must read for all individuals who are lack of cherish and start to venerate women, one of the most unique beings in the world with different shadows of attractive characteristics, loyalty and care.

References:

1. Source: <https://educheer.com/essays/summary-of-e-dweekend-e-d-by-fay-weldon/>